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I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141, provides an illustration of the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at headquarters and in the field between August 2015 and July 2016. It is structured in line with the OHCHR thematic priorities detailed in its management plan for 2014-2017.[1] As at July, OHCHR was supporting 64 field presences and had 1,165 staff members.

2. During the reporting period, the High Commissioner visited Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Mexico, Norway, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; the Deputy High Commissioner visited Denmark, Iraq, Turkey (on the occasion of the World Humanitarian Summit) and the United Arab Emirates; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights conducted visits to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia (to attend the African Union Summit as part of the Secretary-General's delegation), the Republic of Moldova, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Ukraine.

3. OHCHR public advocacy continued to have a powerful impact in shaping public attitudes on important human rights issues. In the period under review, OHCHR published 140 feature stories to showcase its impact on rights-holders' lives and launched several communications campaigns. In 2015, close to 80 videos were produced and almost 1,200 media products issued about the work of OHCHR, with 20,100 media articles generated by OHCHR media products alone. OHCHR also considerably expanded its outreach to rights-holders through the revamped home page of its website and its social media platforms, with close to 5 million followers.

4. In terms of management, following the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/247, the High Commissioner further developed his proposal to strengthen OHCHR regional presences with the objective of enhancing OHCHR effectiveness and efficiency in delivering the mandate granted by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 and implementing the Secretary-General's Strategic Framework. The proposal puts forward the redeployment and upgrading of posts from Geneva to locations in the field in order to strengthen six of the existing regional offices and to establish two new ones. It will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the autumn of 2016.

[1] See: www2.ohchr.org/english/ohchrreport2014_2017/omp_web_version/index.html#/home.

II. Thematic priorities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

A. Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

1. Treaty bodies

5. In line with General Assembly resolution 68/268, the treaty body capacity-building programme became fully operational in 2015, with 10 OHCHR staff members deployed to OHCHR regional offices and six based in Geneva. Under the programme, some 50 activities of direct assistance to States were conducted and the first four subregional training-of-trainers workshops were held, at which 122 State officials from 57 countries became trainers and joined a roster of experts on treaty reporting. The programme has already generated a slight increase in the number of common core documents, treaty reports and replies to lists of issues submitted and an increased interest by a number of States in the establishment of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up.

6. In the period under review, the treaty bodies considered 165 State party reports and adopted final decisions concerning 148 individual communications. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture conducted nine country visits.

7. The High Commissioner once again calls on Member States to ratify the core international human rights treaties and their related optional protocols, and to consider withdrawing reservations. The growing treaty body system requires sustained support and attention, including in the process leading towards the 2020 review.

2. Human Rights Council

8. OHCHR support to the Human Rights Council continued to face major challenges in terms of workload owing to the creation of new mandates and mechanisms to respond to human rights emergencies and emerging or chronic issues. During the reporting period, the Council held 156 meetings, 23 panel discussions, and 52 interactive dialogues, and adopted 148 resolutions and decisions.

9. At its twenty-fourth special session, the Council requested OHCHR to urgently dispatch a mission of independent experts to Burundi to investigate violations and abuses of human rights committed since April 2015. An oral update on the investigation and a report of the High Commissioner were presented in an interactive dialogue at the thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the Council.

10. OHCHR continued to support the international commissions of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and Eritrea. During the reporting period, further to Council mandates, it completed inquiries and submitted reports on violations and abuses of human rights in Sri Lanka, Libya and South Sudan, and in countries affected by Boko Haram.

11. In March, following the report of the High Commissioner on South Sudan and pursuant to Council resolution 31/20, a Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan was established to monitor, assess and report on the human rights situation in

the country since December 2013. Three experts, appointed in June, will report to the Council at its thirty-fourth session.

12. The Council addressed various thematic issues through panel discussions, which were organized or supported by OHCHR, such as on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights, with an emphasis on the right to development; the fiftieth anniversary of the Human Rights Covenants; the impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights; progress in and challenges in addressing human rights issues in the context of efforts to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030; the human rights dimension of preventing and countering violent extremism; good governance in public services; incompatibility between racism and democracy; the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development; the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review; and the use of sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all. In June, the Council commemorated its tenth anniversary through a high-level panel discussion with former Council Presidents as discussants.

13. A particularly positive development within the Council is the increased engagement with the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support Participation of Least Developed and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Council. During the reporting period, a total of 32 delegates from those States attended the sessions of the Council. The Fund enabled 18 delegates to attend the thirty-second session, including 16 from the States without representation in Geneva, enabling the Council to hold its first-ever universal session.

3. Universal periodic review

14. The continued support of OHCHR to the universal periodic review included the use of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review to enable participation of developing country delegates to the universal periodic review Working Group and the Council universal periodic review sessions. All States scheduled for consideration in the universal periodic review took part in the review.

15. In order to strengthen engagement, the effectiveness of reviews and the sharing of best practices, briefings and regional seminars were held in Fiji for Pacific Island States and for Syrian civil society organizations in Lebanon and Turkey. Moreover, OHCHR support contributed to the first-ever comprehensive parliamentary debate on human rights issues in Mauritania.

16. The average number of recommendations addressed to States under review remains high (190 per country), with important challenges for implementation, which OHCHR seeks to support, including through the use of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance.

17. With the third universal periodic review cycle commencing in 2017, it will be crucial for States to strengthen national capacities to implement recommendations, and for the Council to assess the impact of such efforts, while also seeking to support them. OHCHR is developing a comprehensive universal periodic review recommendations implementation plan based on the Secretary-General's policy on

United Nations support to the implementation of the universal periodic review and recommendations of other human rights mechanisms adopted in August 2014.

4. Special procedures

18. As of 31 July, the special procedures system consisted of 56 mandates (with 80 mandate holders), of which 42 were thematic and 14 country-specific mandates.[2] In the reporting period, mandate holders conducted 96 official visits to 77 States and territories. The number of standing invitations is 115 by Member States and 1 by a non-member Observer State.

19. The special procedures submitted 178 reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. During the reporting period and up to 31 May 2016, mandate holders transmitted 469 communications (85 per cent jointly) that were sent to 122 States and 15 non-state actors. To these, 195 responses were received (response rate 41 per cent).

20. OHCHR continued to support mandate holders' joint activities, such as the joint visits to Nigeria in January and to Sri Lanka in April/May.

21. OHCHR supported steps taken to consolidate the role of the Coordination Committee as the main body representing and acting on behalf of special procedures, including by organizing meetings in New York and Geneva to enhance special procedures' interaction with United Nations counterparts. Through the Coordination Committee, special procedures also contributed to OHCHR investigations.

22. OHCHR pursued its efforts to facilitate interaction between the special procedures and other international human rights mechanisms, regional human rights systems, the wider United Nations system, Member States and civil society. For instance, with OHCHR support, the special procedures and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights pursued collaboration guided by the Addis Ababa Road Map, which involved other regional human rights mechanisms, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in pursuit of experience-sharing.

5. Comprehensive follow-up to the work of the human rights mechanisms

23. During the reporting period, OHCHR supported national processes for engaging with human rights mechanisms in 24 countries through the creation or strengthening of standing interministerial structures for reporting and follow-up (for instance in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Tunisia) and the development of thematic monitoring databases, such as SIPLUS-Bolivia.

24. In response to an increase in requests to OHCHR for support in the development of tools to assist States in keeping track of the human rights mechanisms' recommendations and their implementation, OHCHR is developing two multilingual/multi-site software applications, which would enable the creation of national databases automatically uploading the recommendations from the Universal Human Rights Index, with integrated tracking and reporting capacities. Increased attention is being paid to how to effectively support States in

[2] De facto, there are 13 country-specific mandates as the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Syria is not operational.

implementing key thematic priority recommendations within the context of the work of national structures for follow-up, such as on the development of national preventive mechanisms against torture and on freedom of expression and assembly.

25. In June, OHCHR launched the *National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up: A practical guide to effective state engagement with international human rights mechanisms*.[3] New maps were also produced to increase the accessibility of information on States' commitments and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.[4]

6. Humanitarian funds

26. In 2016, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture has been supporting 174 projects, providing direct assistance to victims of torture, along with 10 intersessional emergency projects and five capacity-building projects. The United Nations Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery is providing direct assistance to victims of slavery (42 projects). OHCHR also administers the Special Fund under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

B. Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

1. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

27. In December, in Brazil, OHCHR organized the first Regional Meeting of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). The outcome of this event was a declaration reaffirming the commitment of States to the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The International Decade was launched in a number of countries. OHCHR also provided technical assistance on people of African descent to Argentina, Bolivia and Guatemala.

28. With a view to strengthening the capacity of key stakeholders to combat racism and racial discrimination, OHCHR organized a regional workshop for national human rights institutions and equality bodies from central and western Africa and training for regional commissioners of the Russian Federation. In the Republic of Moldova, OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) contributed to strengthening the Ombudsperson's Office and the Equality Council, including their capacity to track perceptions and attitudes towards discrimination.

29. In Senegal, OHCHR organized a regional workshop for media and representatives of media regulatory and autoregulatory bodies. In Geneva, it organized a workshop for journalists from the Russian Federation and Ukraine to sensitize them to their role in combating xenophobia and related intolerance.

30. In 2015, 11 participants from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, St. Lucia and the United States of America

[3] Available from: ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf.
[4] See www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/HRIndicatorsIndex.aspx.

took part in a comprehensive human rights learning programme in the context of the Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent run by OHCHR.

2. Discrimination on the basis of indigenous or minority status

31. OHCHR continued supporting the preparation of a system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples, provided support to the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and facilitated the ongoing review of its mandate, through a workshop held in April.

32. OHCHR increased its engagement with the international financial institutions to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples into their work, including through a joint project launched within the World Bank in 2015 to support targeted research and awareness-raising on indigenous peoples' rights.

33. In many countries, including Cambodia and Colombia, OHCHR facilitated dialogues between indigenous peoples, authorities and other stakeholders. In June, OHCHR organized a workshop in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to advance the development of a new law on indigenous peoples and other key initiatives on indigenous peoples' rights.

34. In Guatemala, OHCHR continued implementing the second phase of its Maya Programme aimed at strengthening indigenous peoples' rights through strategic litigation. In Costa Rica, OHCHR, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Resident Coordinator supported the establishment by the Government of a national mechanism to consult indigenous peoples on administrative measures that may affect their rights.

35. As the coordinator of the United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, OHCHR helped to increase attention to minority rights at the national level by training United Nations country teams and other stakeholders, including in the Republic of Moldova, Myanmar, the Pacific and the Philippines. In Serbia, a new Roma Inclusion Strategy, developed with OHCHR support, was adopted in March.

36. Through its minority and indigenous peoples' fellowship programmes, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of minorities and indigenous peoples to claim their rights nationally and in international forums. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples continued to play a crucial role in facilitating the participation of indigenous representatives in United Nations human rights activities.

37. The eighth session of the Forum on Minority Issues took place in November 2015, with over 500 participants from all regions.

3. Gender equality and women's human rights

38. In October, OHCHR, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Population Fund and UN-Women published a booklet on recommendations for action against gender-related killings of women and girls. OHCHR developed a model protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women which was endorsed by the Governments of Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama. Moreover, OHCHR contributed to strengthening the

investigative capacities of more than 100 judges and prosecutors from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) through specialized training on this issue.

39. OHCHR conducted capacity-building activities on gender equality and women's human rights for a variety of stakeholders, including from Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Gambia, Honduras, Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Panama, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Switzerland and Tunisia. Further to OHCHR advocacy, the Government of Tunisia announced the establishment of a council for gender equality to be chaired by the Prime Minister.

40. In Malawi, Mexico and Uganda, OHCHR supported country-led processes to identify the main barriers to the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights. To further strengthen implementation of its technical guidance documents on maternal and child mortality and morbidity, OHCHR produced three reflection guides for health policymakers, health workers and national human rights institutions, in cooperation with several partners.[5]

41. OHCHR continued its work to address judicial gender stereotyping as an obstacle to women's access to justice, including through capacity-building for the judiciary (for instance in Guatemala, Senegal and the United Republic of Tanzania) and legal assistance through women's lawyers' associations (such as in Burkina Faso and Senegal). In Mexico, OHCHR, jointly with the State and UN-Women, developed a human rights indicators system with a gender perspective for the criminal sector, which was adopted by the judiciary in the 32 States. In November, in Oman, OHCHR trained members of the judiciary on implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

42. In Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Kurdistan region of Iraq, Nigeria, Timor-Leste and Tunisia, OHCHR supported the elaboration or adoption of legislation against sexual violence or the implementation of existing legislation.

43. OHCHR deployed a Regional Gender Adviser to its regional office for East Africa allowing the Office to strengthen its engagement with the African Union on gender equality and women's rights.

44. OHCHR briefed and trained over 300 United Nations staff members, government representatives and civil society actors on women's human rights and gender integration. It also pursued its active partnership with UN-Women in the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP).

45. In September 2015, the High Commissioner announced his pledge to be a Geneva Gender Champion, committing to no longer participating in panels without a female expert, to improving gender balance in the management of OHCHR, and to meeting with participants in at least one women's organization during each field visit. OHCHR further developed an action plan for a more gender-sensitive organizational culture.

[5] Available from www.ohchr.org/EN/ISSUES/Women/WRGS/Pages/Documentation.aspx.

4. Discrimination on the basis of disability

46. In May, OHCHR and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which focused on next steps for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

47. In Tunisia, OHCHR and partners contributed to amendments to the framework law on persons with disabilities In Guinea, OHCHR supported the national network to promote compliance of relevant national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In Paraguay, OHCHP supported the dissemination. through accessible communication materials, of the National Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and designed relevant human rights indicators to facilitate its implementation. In Timor-Leste, capacity-building by OHCHR allowed people with disabilities to campaign for the ratification of the Convention in advance of the country's universal periodic report. In Georgia, OHCHR organized training for judges on access to justice for persons with disabilities.

48. Following a round table organized in December by the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) on the situation of detainees with disabilities, the authorities committed to accelerating the judicial review of cases involving detainees with disabilities and to improving their conditions of detention. Since February, in the Mopti region, the Human Rights Division has been supporting a local association to implement a project aimed at empowering over 100 persons with disabilities and facilitating their social and economic integration.

49. As a result of OHCHR support to a multi-stakeholder process to increase the visibility of persons with disabilities at the World Humanitarian Summit, a Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action was adopted. OHCHR has been involved in the development of guidelines on humanitarian action and persons with disabilities at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

5. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity

50. OHCHR continued its work to protect people from discrimination and violence based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. In November, OHCHR and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) supported an interregional dialogue on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity between the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations. In September 2015, the principals of 12 United Nations entities endorsed the first inter-agency United Nations statement on the issue, which was drafted by OHCHR, UNDP and UNAIDS. OHCHR also hosted an expert meeting in Geneva to discuss the human rights challenges faced by intersex people and produced a fact sheet on human rights and intersex persons.[6]

[6] Available from: www.unfe.org/system/unfe-65-Intersex_Factsheet_ENGLISH.pdf.

51. On 30 June, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 32/2, which, inter alia, established the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

52. OHCHR continued to lead the United Nations Free and Equal campaign that promotes equal rights and fair treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons globally, including by launching a video, organizing events and running a social media campaign to highlight the social and economic cost of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender exclusion in December. The launch, in August 2015, of the Free and Equal campaign in Suva (Fiji) gained particular momentum and attracted visibility across the Pacific region. The campaign also supported events in Austria, Bhutan, Brazil, Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, India, Madagascar, Peru, Sri Lanka, the United States of America and in West Africa.

6. Protecting the rights of migrants

53. Given the increasing large-scale, irregular and perilous movements of people and heightened vulnerability of migrants to discrimination, exploitation, violence and prejudice, OHCHR has enhanced its focus on the rights of people on the move and countering xenophobia.

54. OHCHR has continued to ensure a human rights perspective in the global debate on migration. In advance of the General Assembly high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants, OHCHR organized several activities, including on the scope and content of the principle of non-refoulement under international human rights law, in collaboration with the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

55. As co-chair of the Global Migration Group Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, OHCHR is developing a set of Principles and Practical Guidance on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations within large and/or mixed movements.

56. OHCHR delivered training to the personnel of the European Union Naval Force that was set up to counter smuggling networks in the Mediterranean. In September, OHCHR launched a short documentary film, entitled *I Am Not Here*, on the situation of undocumented migrant women domestic workers. As part of the ongoing Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers, OHCHR and ILO also released a publication[7] on the same issue and organized a global seminar.

7. Other forms of discrimination

57. In Guinea, OHCHR monitored the situation of survivors of Ebola virus disease and provided assistance to their association to prevent and address any case of discrimination.

58. An illustration of efforts to increase awareness of the issue of discrimination against persons with albinism among children and youth is the inclusion of the

[7] Available from: www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Behind_closed_doors_HR_PUB_15_4_EN.pdf.

Amani character, a young girl with albinism, in a television programme popular in East Africa, based on a proposal by OHCHR.

59. OHCHR continued its advocacy in support of greater protection of human rights of older persons.

C. Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

1. Administration of justice and law enforcement

60. OHCHR continued its collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in relation to the follow-up to the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners ("Nelson Mandela Rules"), participating in briefings and in an expert meeting co-organized by Penal Reform International and the University of Essex on their implementation.

61. In April, the Government of Guatemala, with OHCHR technical support, launched a national dialogue on justice reform. In the Democratic Republic the Congo, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office continued to provide financial and technical assistance to the justice system and to victims in the fight against impunity.

62. OHCHR together with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in December issued a study on human rights issues emanating from traditional practices in Liberia.

63. In Peru, OHCHR provided advice for the drafting of a decree on the use of the police force and, following its adoption, signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Interior, together with UNDP, to support its implementation. OHCHR provided human rights training to 744 police officers of the Myanmar Police Force.

64. The engagement of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) with prison directors and the Ministry of Justice contributed to the release of individuals who had been arbitrarily detained, to the transfer of some people to better detention facilities, and to access to families. Workshops for prison staff organized by UNSMIL in November and December led to the adoption of a common code of ethics for correction officers and other relevant actors.

65. In Mexico, OHCHR participated in the development of two standardized protocols that unified, at the national level, the methodologies to investigate and prosecute torture and disappearances.

66. OHCHR pursued its advocacy for the ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture or Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (for instance in Fiji) and its Optional Protocol, such as in Afghanistan, Mauritania or Tunisia. It also supported the strengthening of national preventive mechanisms against torture, for instance in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan.

2. Legislative and institutional reforms

67. OHCHR provided advice to Sierra Leone, Thailand and Ukraine in their efforts to either amend their existing constitutions or draft new ones.

68. OHCHR supported national stakeholders in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Uganda to develop legislative frameworks for the protection of victims and witnesses of gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

69. In Guinea, OHCHR contributed to the review of the revised criminal code, the code of criminal procedure, the military code and civil code to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards. In Tunisia, OHCHR provided advice for the amendment of the criminal and criminal procedure codes and the development of the laws establishing the Constitutional Court and the High Judicial Council.

70. OHCHR provided legal advice and technical assistance to the Government of Ukraine to implement the National Human Rights Strategy and related Action Plan adopted in November.

71. In May, further to recommendations by an International Human Rights Working Group established by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo[8] (UNMIK), the Prime Minister of Kosovo created an Inter-ministerial Human Rights Working Group to further the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. Transitional justice

72. OHCHR continued to support efforts to combat impunity and strengthen national capacity for the investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations, including through an expert workshop held in Geneva in October. In Mali, South Sudan and the Sudan (Darfur), OHCHR provided advice on possible accountability and transitional justice arrangements foreseen by peace agreements. OHCHR also continued to support the Extraordinary African Chambers in the Senegalese Courts and monitored the trial of Hissène Habré.

73. OHCHR advised on the design, establishment and functioning of transitional justice processes from a human rights perspective in the context of the Central African Republic, Colombia, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Nepal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Tunisia.

74. In March, OHCHR, UNDP and the International Center for Transitional Justice organized a colloquium to review and validate the draft national reparation policy elaborated by the Côte d'Ivoire National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims.

75. OHCHR advocated for participation of victims and witnesses of sexual violence in peace processes and reconciliation (for example in the Central African Republic and the Sudan (Darfur)), for the provision of assistance to victims of sexual violence and informing the development of reparation efforts (Bosnia and

[8] Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, the Sudan (Darfur), Tunisia). OHCHR also supported the meaningful inclusion of women in peace processes and reconciliation mechanisms, including in Afghanistan, Guinea, Libya and Tunisia.

76. Following the launch in the Latin American region of the Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Reparations for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, OHCHR and UN-Women organized regional meetings to promote its implementation in the Middle East and North Africa region (May) and in the South-East Europe region (June).

4. Death penalty

77. OHCHR continued to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, including by promoting the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[9] In September, at a high-level event on the death penalty in New York, OHCHR launched the second edition of the publication *Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Arguments, Trends and Perspectives*.[10] OHCHR organized a series of knowledge event panels on the death penalty in support of the international initiative towards its abolition.

78. In November, in cooperation with the African Union, OHCHR organized a regional event on the abolition of the death penalty in Addis Ababa. OHCHR also supported and provided technical advice to the United Nations country teams in Indonesia, Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia to advance efforts towards abolition. In June, the High Commissioner delivered a keynote speech at the sixth World Congress Against the Death Penalty, in Oslo.

5. Counter-terrorism

79. OHCHR continued to co-chair the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism, which contributes to developing the capacity of law enforcement officials, by raising concerns at vaguely formulated national security legislation, denial of fair trial and due process rights and the use of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment during pretrial detention. Since the adoption of the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (see A/70/674),[11] OHCHR has engaged with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP to examine and address the human rights implications of new policies to prevent violent extremism.

80. In supporting the Government of Tunisia to introduce a human rights-based approach to counter-terrorism measures, OHCHR developed a project to assist prison authorities and policymakers in addressing violent extremism in prisons.

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[9] Currently about 170 States have abolished the death penalty or do not use it in practice, by establishing a de jure or de facto moratorium.

[10] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.XIV.6. Electronic version available from: www.ohchr.org/EN/newyork/Documents/Moving-Away-from-the-Death-Penalty-2015-web.pdf.

[11] Also available from: www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674.

6. Sexual violence in conflict

81. As part of United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, OHCHR has been supporting efforts by numerous national stakeholders and victims in several countries to bring perpetrators to justice, through documenting the cases, assisting victims with legal aid and other services, and strengthening the capacity of service providers to assist them.

82. As a co-lead entity of the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, OHCHR assisted national authorities in the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan to fight impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. This included support in legislative review, strengthening mechanisms for victims and witness protection, the elaboration of reparation programmes, and support to the overall work of judicial bodies. OHCHR continued close collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other co-lead entities on the Team of Experts. OHCHR participated in the Special Representative's visits to Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

7. Development of methodological guidance

83. OHCHR developed a new searchable Research Guide on International Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Missions and Other Investigations established by the United Nations.[12]

84. With a view to further professionalizing human rights monitoring, fact-finding and investigation, OHCHR continued the development of the Glossary of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and provision of training on monitoring and investigations. The Human Rights Case Database currently available in 28 field presences and at headquarters has contributed to an improvement in the quality of information-gathering and reporting.

85. OHCHR coordinated the development of a mandatory online course on the United Nations Human Rights Responsibilities for all United Nations staff, launched in December, and has worked with partners to roll it out to the broader United Nations system.

D. Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the right to development

86. OHCHR advocacy has emphasized that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the right to development are interlinked, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The thirtieth anniversary of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development, in relation to which OHCHR organized a number of events, offers an important opportunity to ensure a vital enabling environment to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. This will require a call to multilateral action foregrounding the means of implementation and the commitments made in the

[12] http://libraryresources.unog.ch/factfinding.

Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third Conference on Financing for Development. OHCHR also issued a publication on Frequently Asked Questions on the Right to Development.[13]

87. OHCHR and UN-Women are co-leading system-wide efforts to develop a shared framework for action on combating inequalities and discrimination in the context of the 2030 Agenda. OHCHR is also contributing actively to implementation at the national level of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of ensuring that human rights are strongly reflected. In Palestine, within the framework of the Government's national development plan 2017-2022, OHCHR advised the Prime Minister's Office on the alignment of Palestine's commitments under international human rights treaties and Sustainable Development Goals. OHCHR also supported the chairs of the treaty bodies and the President of the Human Rights Council in contributing to the July thematic review of the High-Level Political Forum on the topic of "leaving no one behind".

88. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals indicators identified OHCHR as a custodian agency, responsible for developing methodologies, collecting data and reporting on a number of Sustainable Development Goals indicators. OHCHR developed a Guidance Note on A Human Rights-based Approach to Data, emphasizing protection of human rights in data disaggregation efforts.[14]

89. OHCHR actively supported the intergovernmental process leading to the adoption of the Paris Agreement on climate change, which is the first multilateral climate agreement of its kind to explicitly refer to human rights.

2. Human rights mainstreaming

90. Mainstreaming human rights within the United Nations development system continued to be an OHCHR priority, to help to translate Member States' strong human rights commitments in the 2030 Agenda into better development results on the ground. Under the United Nations Development Group, OHCHR led efforts to strengthen Resident Coordinators' leadership for human rights, update policy guidance and support United Nations country teams in meeting Member States' needs.

91. In October 2015 and March 2016, OHCHR submitted its final recommendations in global consultations in relation to the new Environmental and Social Framework of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the World Bank. As part of its support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the right to development, in May OHCHR with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation published a scoping study as a step in conducting a Human Rights Impact Assessment of the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement in Africa.

3. Economic and social rights

92. As a member of a multi-stakeholder Expert Advisory Group, which provides technical support to the High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, OHCHR has

[13] Available from: www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FSheet37_RtD_EN.pdf.

[14] See: www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf.

focused on the integration of a human rights-based approach to access to medicines as a fundamental component of the resolution of policy incoherence in the areas covered by the Panel's mandate. It also provided the Panel with normative and policy guidance on appropriate human rights interventions, and on accountability.

93. OHCHR submitted a thematic study[15] on early warning and economic, social and cultural rights at the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council.

94. In Colombia, OHCHR advocacy and advice led to progress in health policies at the national level and in some departments, for example, to the adoption of a comprehensive plan to address the lack of drinking water for the Hitnü indigenous people, or commitment to establishing health centres for rural communities and deploying air brigades for remote, largely Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities.

95. In November, following OHCHR advice, Guatemala's Ministry of Labour adopted a Protocol on the Inspection of Labour Conditions for Agricultural Workers. OHCHR has since supported the implementation of the protocol and trained labour inspectors on its use.

96. In Thailand, Cambodia and Timor-Leste, OHCHR conducted training and provided technical support on issues relating to land rights addressing the impact on local communities. OHCHR also played an instrumental role in facilitating dialogue between members of civil society and the respective governments. In November, OHCHR held an expert meeting in Bangkok to explore the links between violations of economic and social rights related to land and conflict.

4. Business and human rights

97. OHCHR organized numerous multi-stakeholder consultations on enhancing accountability and access to remedy in cases of business-related human rights abuses. Together with extensive research, this has resulted in practical, action-oriented guidance for States on improving domestic legal systems and to monitor compliance with relevant standards of legal assessment, policy and capacity-building.[16]

98. OHCHR continued engaging with the National Human Rights Commission in Sierra Leone to enhance its capacity to engage with national stakeholders on business and human rights. In Cambodia, OHCHR support to negotiations between indigenous communities and a multinational company about a long-standing dispute over an Economic Land Concession contributed to the company committing to compensation agreements on one sacred site and reviewing all pending land claims. In Guinea, OHCHR facilitated the first-ever parliamentary information mission to assess human rights and environmental concerns in mining areas that led to recommendations to the Executive and the National Assembly to address these issues. In Colombia, OHCHR contributed to increasing the integration of human rights standards into business operations through public advocacy and engagement with some companies. The framework of the 2014 agreement between OHCHR and the Victims' and Land Restitution Units to promote the sustainable return of

[15] See: www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/ESCR/EarlyWarning_ESCR_2016_en.pdf.
[16] See A/HRC/32/19 and Add.1.

displaced communities and land restitution processes facilitated in 2015 cooperation between fair trade producers' associations and returned communities.

99. The fourth annual Forum on Business and Human Rights was held in Geneva in November, attracting over 2,400 participants from 130 countries.

E. Widening the democratic space

100. The High Commissioner has consistently used his voice to highlight the worrying trends in curtailments of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly worldwide and the harassment of, threats to and persecution of civil society organizations, including human rights defenders and journalists, also in the context of counter-terrorism measures. Reprisals against those cooperating with OHCHR also continued to be an issue of concern in the period under review.

101. In May, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 30/9, OHCHR organized an expert workshop on the right to participate in public affairs, at which existing guidance, gaps and new forms of participation were discussed.

102. In September 2015 and June 2016, OHCHR and the Carter Centre organized workshops to increase cooperation and information-sharing between United Nations human rights mechanisms and electoral practitioners. Several OHCHR field presences monitored human rights in the context of elections, for example in Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti and Uganda.

1. Support to civil society, including human rights defenders

103. In Honduras, OHCHR advised the authorities to develop regulations for the implementation of the Law on protection of human rights defenders, journalists and legal practitioners. In Mexico, it assisted the Federal Protection Mechanism to protect human rights defenders and journalists, notably in the elaboration of comprehensive protection plans. In Thailand, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice to establish a working group on the protection of human rights defenders.

2. Support to national human rights institutions

104. OHCHR continued to support the establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions throughout the world,[17] including by assisting in drafting new enabling legislation (for example in Mali) or amending existing law in accordance with the Paris Principles (such as in Tajikistan).

105. OHCHR advised the Dominican Republic's Defensor del Pueblo on its 2014-2017 strategic plan and trained its staff on the role of national human rights institutions in human rights protection. OHCHR continued to support Haiti's Office of Citizen Protection, including by providing two consultants and financial assistance to improve the working conditions of the institution's departmental offices. In Jamaica, OHCHR supported the transformation of the Public Defender Office into a national human rights institution, providing advice on the formulation

[17] For more information on OHCHR support to national human rights institutions, see A/HRC/33/35 and A/HRC/33/36.

of its mandate, structure and functions. OHCHR advised the Democratic Republic of the Congo National Commission of Human Rights, including on the development of its strategic plan and its complaint-handling function. OHCHR support to the national human rights commission of Niger led to the adoption of its 2014-2017 plan of action and the presentation of its first annual report to parliament.

3. Freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly

106. In November, in Brazil, OHCHR organized discussions on the rights to freedom of expression and to privacy in the digital domain at the Internet Governance Forum. In March, the High Commissioner issued a landmark press release urging caution in relation to the legal case involving the Apple computer company and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

107. With OHCHR support, Tunisia's High Authority for Audiovisual Communication developed a national barometer on monitoring incitement to hatred. In October, to reach out to remote areas, OHCHR and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a caravan with the National Union of Journalists to promote the safety of journalists and address impunity for attacks against them.

108. In Myanmar, OHCHR provided a legal analysis of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Bill 2016, which informed civil society's advocacy and was presented to parliamentarians.

4. Human rights education

109. In October OHCHR delivered a training-of-trainers course on human rights training methodology to 22 United Nations staff members. In addition, in June, it organized a training session for about 100 human rights educators from 50 countries in the context of the annual Equitas International Human Rights Training Programme. In September, it submitted to the Human Rights Council, the evaluation of the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.[18]

F. Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

1. Human rights, peace and security

110. OHCHR has sustained interactions with the Security Council by providing briefings and participating in open debates on country-specific and thematic issues, and by promoting the strengthening of human rights protection mandates in Security Council resolutions.

111. Through its peace missions support capacity, OHCHR has consolidated progress by more regularly integrating human rights issues into mechanisms for decision-making, strategic planning processes and operational support for peace operations led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department

[18] World Programme for Human Rights Education, Second Phase: Plan of Action, New York and Geneva, 2012 (HR/PUB/12/3).

of Political Affairs, including in the framework of implementing the recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on the future of peace operations (see A/70/357-S/2015/682). It also provided advice and analysis to Member States in the context of mandate renewal processes. OHCHR continued to engage with the African Union Peace and Security Department and the United Nations Office to the African Union to strengthen support for the integration of human rights in African Union peace operations.

112. OHCHR continued to facilitate the implementation of United Nations policies for peace operations and special political missions, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, including with regard to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), which led to some progress in implementing mitigation measures to reduce human rights violations by uniformed personnel of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

113. OHCHR provided specialized advice on the role of human rights in sustaining peace and peacebuilding in the context of the adoption of the resolutions on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture by the General Assembly and the Security Council. OHCHR has increasingly briefed the Peacebuilding Commission on specific country situations, including Burundi. In 2015, OHCHR received funding from the Peacebuilding Fund for projects in Guinea and Kyrgyzstan, and for projects in Burundi and Sri Lanka for 2016.

114. In partnership with UN-Women and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, OHCHR contributed to the establishment of an Informal Expert Group of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security, which, in the period under review, held dialogues on Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Iraq and Mali. OHCHR also contributed substantively to the Global Study on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which informed the 2015 Secretary-General's annual report to the Security Council on women, peace and security (S/2015/716).

2. Emergency response and early warning

115. The OHCHR emergency response capacity supported the operationalization of Human Rights Council mandates, notably the conceptualization and deployment of inquiries and other missions, which, in the reporting period, involved over 70 staff members.

116. OHCHR teams were deployed to support the offices in Guatemala and Guinea to conduct human rights monitoring in the context of elections; to collect information on the human rights situation in the Republic of Moldova in the context of the political crisis; to strengthen the OHCHR office in Palestine in the context of an upsurge of violence; and to monitor the human rights situation of refugees and migrants in Bulgaria, Greece and Italy.

117. OHCHR continued to contribute to the implementation of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative launched in 2013. It provided recommendations to the Secretary-General to improve the way information from across the United Nations system in relation to serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law is utilized, so as to inform prompt and adequate

responses. Also in the context of the initiative, OHCHR developed the concept of multidisciplinary "light teams", in coordination with the Department of Political Affairs, through which the United Nations can deploy staff members to situations of concern, particularly in a preventive mode. During the period under review, such teams were deployed to Burkina Faso, Lesotho and the Republic of the Congo.

3. Sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation

118. OHCHR has been involved in the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Independent Review Panel ("CAR panel") report since its release in December 2015. Following the appointment of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse in February, OHCHR supported several work streams, including a gap analysis and mapping of roles and responsibilities on sexual exploitation and abuse, and the development of a uniform protocol on handling allegations, information sharing and the protection of victims.

119. OHCHR continued to systematically follow up with relevant Member States on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse and other serious violations by non-United Nations international forces deployed in the Central African Republic and other locations. The High Commissioner has consistently called for prompt, impartial and independent investigation of each allegation and for those responsible to be diligently identified and brought to justice.

120. OHCHR provided strategic advice and technical support to increase capacity within peace missions to address violations by non-United Nations international forces, particularly following an increase of reports of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. OHCHR has strengthened its own efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by setting up an internal alert system whereby allegations are reported promptly to headquarters and responses coordinated.

121. In November 2015 and March 2016, in Istanbul, OHCHR conducted workshops with about 20 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries on monitoring and documentation of sexual and gender-based violence. In 2016, it administered grants to three NGOs to address sexual gender-based violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, and trained civil society teams based in Homs, Aleppo and Latakia to document and report on such violence.

122. OHCHR provided technical and capacity-building assistance to States and civil society groups, including in Belarus, Chile, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia on the issue of trafficking in persons.

4. Humanitarian action

123. OHCHR sustained its engagement in humanitarian action with a view to promoting the centrality of protection in responses to crises. It participated in Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) forums and, with the organization InterAction, remained co-Chair of the Global Protection Cluster task team responsible for facilitating implementation of the IASC protection priority. In May, OHCHR participated in the World Humanitarian Summit.

124. OHCHR led the protection clusters in Palestine and Mauritania, co-led them with UNHCR for much of the reporting period in Ukraine and Fiji, and remained active in the protection cluster in Yemen. OHCHR also continued to engage in the context of the humanitarian response in Myanmar. The three Human Rights Advisers deployed by OHCHR in 2015 to support the Humanitarian Coordinator in the Syrian Arab Republic (based in Beirut), the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (Amman) and his deputy (Gaziantep), worked to enhance the integration of human rights into the work of the United Nations country teams in the Syrian Arab Republic and in the region. They thus contributed to the Humanitarian Needs Overview for 2016 and to the Humanitarian Response Plan.

III. Conclusions

125. **The work of OHCHR and the High Commissioner in promoting and protecting the enjoyment and full realization of all rights, by all people everywhere, aims at making a positive impact on the rights-holders worldwide. Yet, major challenges continue to affect the enjoyment of human rights, such as a persisting trend of restrictions of public freedoms in all regions, growing inequalities, including in the wealthiest countries, rising intolerance, including anti-immigrant and anti-minority rhetoric and violence, weakening of the rule of law and, in many instances, a selective approach to human rights by duty-bearers. These challenges are exacerbated particularly in areas consumed by, or prone to, armed conflict and violence by extremist groups.**

126. **In the face of many chronic and emerging challenges, States and intergovernmental bodies have increasingly continued to solicit OHCHR action and assistance. There are also growing expectations from different stakeholders for the Office to have more impact in real terms. However, OHCHR capacity to meet such demands and expectations remains limited owing to the inadequate level of financial resources provided under all types of funding.**

127. **For OHCHR to be able to adequately deliver on its mandate, commensurate regular and extrabudgetary resources, including for the trust funds, should be made available. The High Commissioner will pursue strategies aimed at increasing effectiveness and efficiency to deliver the OHCHR mandate and expanding its donor base, and organizational changes to allow the Office to better support Member States, rights-holders and key partners.**

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